

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

5       **PREPARATION OF COMPONENTS AND ARTICLES WITH  
DIRECTED HIGH FREQUENCY ENERGY HEATED SILICA-RICH  
RUBBER COMPONENTS CONTAINING HIGH SOFTENING POINT  
POLYMER AND SULFUR CURATIVE**

10      Field of the Invention

          This invention relates to a process of preparation of components and articles of manufacture containing at least one of such components, such as tires, and the resulting prepared components and fabricated articles, by use of directed high frequency energy internally heated silica-rich rubber compositions which contain sulfur curative and a  
15      significant content of high softening point polymer, namely a polymer and/or elastomer having a melting point ( $T_m$ ) and/or high glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) above  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and particularly above  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and which contains a minimal, if any, carbon black reinforcement. Such directed high frequency energy heating is provided, individually, by directed radio frequency (electromagnetic) radiation and/or by directed microwave  
20      radiation. Representative examples of such polymers may be, for example, trans 1,4-polybutadiene, 3,4-polyisoprene, natural cis 1,4-polyisoprene rubber, isoprene/butadiene copolymer having a high trans 1,4-polybutadiene component, polystyrene, styrene/butadiene rubber having a high trans 1,4-polybutadiene component and styrene/butadiene rubber having a high styrene content.